



NEW MILTON COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICER'S REPORT

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AUGUST 2007

There have been a number of reports recently, both in the press and elsewhere, about the lack of a visible presence in the town centre and in the villages that make up the New Milton policing area. In order to redress the balance we would again like to stress that high visibility patrol, as important as it is, forms just part of a police officers role. During the month of July Police Officers and PCSO's in the New Milton area have attended

a number of recorded incidents including, as you would expect ; assaults, burglaries, thefts and damage. However, included in this figure are the other incidents we are also required to attend such as reports of sudden death, reports of missing persons, industrial accidents and a wide range of other incidents all of which divert us away from high visibility patrols. So as you can see it is not a case of us not being there, but prioritising the

tasks we are required to undertake. PCSOs are now more mobile having taken and passed a police driving course and are now able to patrol areas previously difficult to reach on foot.

Off Road Use of Motor Cycles.

In recent weeks there have been a few complaints filtering through of motor cycles being ridden around Ashley Recreation Ground and on footpaths in and around the New Milton area.

The Law states that if a motor vehicle/cycle is being used in a Careless or Inconsiderate manner, 'Off Road' (on our local Recreation Grounds), 'in an

antisocial manner' (causing, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public) then a warning under Sec 59 Police Reform Act 2002 can be issued. The warning can be issued to the Rider, the Owner, or to the motor vehicle/cycle itself. Should the Rider, the Owner or the motor vehicle/cycle receive a second warning the motor vehicle /cycle can be seized and can only be recovered by payment of a £105 fee.

Police do not need to witness the incident to issue a warning but do require the assistance of the public to deal with this problem. If a member of the public is prepared to make a short statement either identifying the rider or the registration number of the motor cycle, then the appropriate warnings can be issued. We often receive complaints of motor cycles riding around our recreation grounds but on our arrival they have already left the area.

If you are a dog walker, local resident or just visiting the Recreation Ground and witness a motor cycle riding around please give us a call as we do require the evidence to justify our action and prove the offence. If you make a statement your name etc. will not be disclosed to the rider or owner receiving the warning as this is not a court procedure.

PCSO'S Nicola Marks, Alan McCaffrey and James Mitchener

Throughout July PCSOs have been working with Country Watch in the New Forest car parks to highlight the problem of theft from vehicles parked in the car parks during holiday season. Country Watch is a pilot initiative which has been set up to help reduce crime in rural areas. We have been out in the community bus handing out crime reduction information and giving advice to the public. This includes laminated cards which we encourage drivers to display on their vehicle dashboards. This has proven to be effective. If you have these cards, please display them to deter thieves and remember to take all your valuables with you when you leave your vehicle.

Also during July we have been involved in providing presence at events such as the annual New Milton Kart Race, the Milford Music Festival, local school fetes and also the Bashley Flower Show. As the weather proved to be fairly good on all occasions it was clear that a good time was had by all. The events seemed to run smoothly and there were no major problems caused by road closures and parking congestion.

With regard to antisocial behaviour, we have seen a considerable drop in the number of visible underage drinkers in our hotspot areas. The Gore Road Cemetery is still an area that we see groups gathering, however, the litter problem seems to be improving. The groups that still attend generally do not cause antisocial behaviour despite the odd underage drinker. In these cases the alcohol has been seized and advice was given to the parties involved. During the summer holidays there has been an obvious increase in youths gathering but no major problems in the Recreation ground.

After numerous reports and visual sightings of people cycling on pavements, we have so far issued advice to the offenders. We have used our discretion initially but will be issuing fixed penalty notices if the people spoken to are seen again. Our advice is only use the foot pavement if it is unsafe to use the road but in most areas around New Milton and surrounding areas, this is not necessary. Our aim is to protect vulnerable pedestrians especially elderly people from possible accidents or fear of being hit by cyclists.

If anyone has information about any of the above issues please contact us in confidence on 08450454545 or by e-mail

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The Town Centre - PC Nick ROGERS

July has been a fairly quiet month on the whole. The number of reported juvenile nuisances/antisocial behaviour in and around the Town Centre seems to have dropped as of recent weeks.

There have been several bike thefts this month. Most have been from outside shops. Whenever entering a shop even if it is for a matter of seconds please ensure your cycle is locked. It is not worth losing a bike forever when it takes seconds to lock and secure it. Please also try and lock it to something static so it can't be picked up and carried off.

Identifying stolen bikes can sometimes be tricky as with anything that is mass produced. It is a good idea to make it stand out or make it identifiable to you

without devaluing it, for example by inserting something inside the handle bar frame or by writing something in magic/invisible pens etc.

A male has been identified on CCTV in relation to a theft of a bike.

Burglary

To my knowledge there has not been any reported house burglaries this month in or around the town centre beat.

During the early hours of July 6 one of the COOP windows on Station Road was smashed by an offender using a claw hammer. The alarm sounded and the offender left empty handed.

On the weekend of July 21 a Business premises was burgled, £40 in petty cash was stolen. Enquiries for this offence are still ongoing.

On July 16 a purse dipper stole a lady's cash card and made numerous transactions in and around the town with the person's cash card. Prior to noticing the card missing the lady had used an ATM machine in Station Road.

It is possible that the lady was observed whilst taking her money out of an ATM machine. I believe the offender/s may have been close enough to see the inputted pin number and subsequently purse dipped the card. It is important that prior to inserting your personal PIN number you look around to check that someone isn't standing too close to you.

If you feel that someone is close to you STOP and don't continue. Step back and invite the person to use the machine as you're not ready to use it. This is a non confrontational way of dealing with the situation.

As a matter of course I would advise anyone to conceal their pin whilst inputting their pin numbers into the ATM.

Having used the machine always put your card away in a safe place. If placed into a handbag ensure it is zipped shut and carry your bag to the front. These are simple ways to avoid the situation.

I would like to hear from anyone who knows about this purse dipper. Anonymous information can always be given to Crimestoppers.

Assaults

There have been 3 reported assaults this month, two of which were domestic related. One was inside a home address and the other a public place.

One man has been arrested and charged following a domestic assault.

On July 9 a man was allegedly assaulted near to the town by a group of young males. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to this offence.

Damage

During the early hours of July 1 there were two separate graffiti damages reported. One was on a house wall and the other a shop in Station Road.

Another shop in Station Road was also graffiti damaged later in the month.

I would be very interested to hear from anyone who knows who is responsible for these damages. Anonymous information can always be reported to police via Crimestoppers

Milford and Barton - PC Del JONES

July saw a great variety in the weather conditions in our area; this in turn has had an impact on crime and Policing in the area. The very bad weather during the early part of the month without doubt assisted in reducing the number of recorded offences. Where as the sun shone just in time for the Milford Music Festival which was a great success from a Policing point of view. No recorded crimes and a large quantity of alcohol seized from underage youths helped to ensure that the event ran smoothly. No arrests were made and on the whole the event passed off without major incident.

Burglary

Burglary is one of the most worrying and upsetting crimes that can occur. Fortunately the burglary rate in this part of Hampshire is very low and we are continuing to work hard with other agencies to reduce the opportunities available to burglars. I have increased the number of patrols in the late evening particularly in areas that have been targeted in the past. With the result that again in July no dwelling burglaries were reported on my beat.

Assaults

Once again in July there have been no reported assaults.

Theft

Overnight of July 1/2 two malen using a small yellow van were seen acting suspiciously near to Milford Junior School, the following day builders working on site reported the theft of scrap metal from the site.

Later in the same week lead flashings were stolen from the garden of an address in Northfield Road, Milford. No-one was seen on this occasion.

Overnight on July 16/17 four solar powered lights were stolen from the garden of an address in Wavendon Ave, Barton.

During the evening of July 17 a caravan and its contents were stolen from Laundry Lane, Milford.

On July 28 two Goldfinch birds were stolen from a pet shop in Barton. These birds were valued at £150 for the pair.

If you witnessed any of these incidents please call New Milton police station on 0845 045 45 45.

Damage

Once again the number of reported damage offences remains low. There have been a number of minor damage incidents in the centre of Milford village which I know have caused some residents concern. I will continue to monitor the area and if possible will dedicate some additional time to this area to try and prevent the trend escalating.

New Milton West - PCs Chrissie Benfield & Damien Guest

During the month of July and August we welcome PC Gail Balfour, who is stationed at Lymington police station on the Targeted Patrol Team. Gail has joined New Milton's Safer Neighbourhood Team for a short attachment in order to increase her knowledge base on community matters.

Between July 27 and July 28 police received numerous calls from concerned residents in the Marryat Road and Carisbrooke Court area. The

calls were in connection with a well known registered national charity that was using sharp and inappropriate practices when collecting.

As a result of residents calling, we were able to identify and speak with the South West Coordinator for National Fundraising. The charity has been strongly advised re their future practices when collecting.

If you experience any problems with cold callers or fundraisers in you area and have concern regarding their authenticity or approach to collecting then please don't hesitate contact New Milton police on 0845 045 4545

Assaults

There have been two assault complaints recorded this month. On both occasions the aggressor has been know to the aggrieved. One suspect has been arrested and dealt with by mean of a caution, where as enquiries are still ongoing with the second complaint.

In May's edition you may recall an incident on May 15 outside of the Arnewood School whereby a group of youths assaulted another young male. Six suspects were named in total and in May's edition all six suspects had been arrested and were awaiting advice from the Crown Prosecution Service.

This month all six suspects answered police bail. Four were charged with the assault, one was issued with a final warning and the other was released without further action, helping to send a very positive message that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated and positive action will be taken.

Burglary

There has only been one burglary report recorded in the month of July.

On July 5 a property in Marley Avenue was broken into by forcing the rear door. The offenders are still not known at this time and I would ask anyone who saw anything suspicious or untoward during that day to contact either New Milton police station or Crimestoppers in confidence.

On July 30 there was a report of a burglary non dwelling on the Gore Road industrial estate. E&P Plastic's outbuildings were targeted and various materials were removed.

Again if you have any information that may help to progress this investigation please don't hesitate to contact us in confidence.

Theft

Police have taken six theft reports during the month of July. Two of these reports relate to thefts of personal belongings after a house party. Most items stolen are of low value and there is no particular patter to the time, date or location

Rowdy Behaviour

Police have received twelve reports of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour during the month of July.

Again I stress while all of these reports do not always constitute a criminal offence, they do affect local residents and their quality of life. I would urge you to continue to report such problems so that we can direct our patrols accordingly in an attempt to reduce anti-social behaviour.

New Milton East - PC Olivia Lucas

Despite a generally quiet month in July we are beginning to receive more reports of anti-social behaviour. In particular the use of motor cycles on the recreation ground we have increased the numbers of patrols in these areas and should persons be found committing offences using vehicle we will be utilising our powers under section 59 of the Police Reform Act to seize the vehicles.

Assaults

There were four recorded assaults in the Ashley area during the month of July, including one on a Police Officer. As with the majority of assaults the offender is known to the victim and in each case the offender(s) have since been arrested.

Burglary

There have been two dwelling burglaries reported to Police in July. On July 5 Police were informed that a property in Danesbury Meadows had been entered and bikes stolen. Between July 7 and 8 a property in Woodvale Gardens had been broken into the offenders smashed a ground floor window in order to gain entry but nothing was stolen.

Damage

There has been a slight increase in the number of damage reports during July with six offences being recorded. Overnight on July 2/3 a vehicle parked in a private parking bay in Barrs Avenue had its windscreen smashed; nothing was stolen from within the vehicle. In the early hours of July 14 a brick was thrown at a property in Ashley Common Road causing damage to a window. Overnight of July 28/29 a motor home parked in

Andrew Lane had one of its tyres cut. Also on the same night youths ran over the roof of a vehicle in Ashley Common Road causing damage.

Theft

There have been several reported thefts in Ashley during July most of which relate to goods stolen from local shops.

Hordle & Everton - incorporating Bashley, Wooton & Hinton

Hordle is still waiting to have a dedicated Officer appointed to the area and as such incidents are being dealt with by other Beat Officers from the New Milton team.

There have been a number of anonymous letters circulating in the Everton Road area of Hordle relating to a nearby resident. The content of these letters is quite unpleasant. This type of behaviour is not acceptable and is currently being investigated.

Assaults

Despite three assaults occurring for the beat during the month of July this figure remains low. In all three cases the offenders were known to the victims and in two of the incidents arrests have been made. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to the third assault.

Burglary

On July the 19 a burglary occurred at a property in Everton. Enquiries into this matter are still ongoing.

Between July 9 and the 22 a disused house was broken into on Silver Street. A small electric kettle was the only item stolen.

Damage

On July the 10 damage was caused at an address in Everton. A youth has since been arrested.

The following day a post box was cut from the gates of a premises in Vaggs Lane, despite damage being caused the post box was left at the scene. During the late evening on July the 16 a car parked in Sylvan Close, Hordle had two of its windows smashed. Nothing was stolen.

If you would like to make any comment regarding the content of the Bulletin, or you have information that would enable us to target our patrols to address your local problem, your input would be welcomed. You can leave a message for either PS Dave TANNER or PC Del JONES on 0845 045 45 45

Crime Stoppers - 0800 555 111